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REMARKS

Claim 1 calls for notifying a first of three processors when a second of the three processors is receiving a signal from the third of the three processors. This last element is rejected based on the teaching in column 17, lines 27-52 of Nakata. However, that material does not involve any communication between nodes (which are alleged in the office action to be processors). Instead, it merely relates to the assignment of the wavelength for a subsequent transmission. Moreover, there is no communication between the nodes, other than to indicate a given wavelength is now busy.

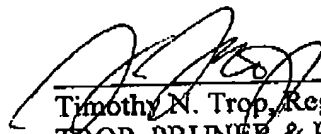
The claim requires that a first processor be notified when a second of three processors is receiving a signal from a third of three processors. The assignment of the wavelength involves no communication. There is no signal between second and third nodes. The first sentence of the cited language in column 17 makes it clear that what is being talked about here is the assignment of wavelengths before any communication. As indicated at lines 35 and 36, a node extracts a free wavelength and updates the wavelength management table. Clearly, this involves no communication between two nodes. When a wavelength is in use, the bit assigned is set to one for that wavelength. See column 17, lines 41 and 42. Thus, there is no situation where when a second and third nodes are communicating, a first node is notified. At most what would happen in the situation cited in the passage relied upon, is that one node obtains a wavelength and the bit associated with that wavelength is changed in status. That bit change is not communicated to any other node. There is no communication between two processors.

In short, a selection of an available wavelength is done entirely by one node all by itself. It can do this by receiving the wavelength table selecting an unused wavelength and changing that wavelength to used status. No communication is required. No notification is provided to any other node in response to receiving a communication. All that is done is the table setting is changed, but this is not necessarily communicated to anyone else. It simply resides in the table and goes nowhere. There is no notification of a first of three processors when a second of three processors is receiving a signal from a third of the three processors. Moreover, the wavelength management table does not constitute a signal, but is merely data. The reference itself is clear that the signal that is transmitted is after setting up the appropriate wavelength using the wavelength management table. See, for example, column 18, lines 26-32.

In view of these remarks, reconsideration is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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